

SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE NEWS FOR SUNDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2021

Good morning and welcome to the weekly news bulletin of the South African Radio League read by [your name, call sign and QTH]

The South African Radio League broadcasts a news bulletin each Sunday in Afrikaans and English at 08:15 and 08:30 Central African Time respectively on HF and various VHF and UHF repeaters around the country. The bulletin is relayed on Echolink by Johan, ZS6JPL. The audio bulletins can be downloaded from the League website at www.sarl.org.za while the text bulletin can be downloaded from <https://sarlnnewsbulletin.wordpress.com/>. To join the MailChimp bulletin mailing list, send an e-mail to the SARL Secretary.

In the news today:

THE ZS1 SPRINT THIS AFTERNOON

5 MHZ PROPAGATION STUDY AWARD

and

CQ HOU KOERS AND JAMBOREE ON THE AIR IN OCTOBER

Stay tuned for more information on these and other interesting news items.

We begin the bulletin with news of a silent key

It is with regret that we announce that the key Dick van den Berg, ZS2VV of Cradock went silent on Thursday 9 September 2021. He was very active until his passing and could be heard most mornings on 3,775 MHz. We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

PAUSE

THE ZS1 SPRINT THIS AFTERNOON

The very first ZS1 Sprint is on the air this afternoon 26 September from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC (16:00 to 17:00 CAT) using CW and phone. Stations in ZS2 to ZS6 must work only stations in ZS1, while ZS1 will work as many ZS2 to ZS6 stations as possible. The exchange is a realistic RS(T) report and your provincial or country abbreviation. Submit your log sheet, available from the Contest page on the League web site, by 23:59 CAT on Wednesday 6 October 2021 to zs1ct@ctarc.org.za. Turn to page 71 of the 2021 Blue Book for the rules.

The CQ WW RTTY Contest ends at 23:59 UTC this evening, so you can still

work the world on RTTY!

THE 2022 SARL CONTEST MANUAL

The Contest Working Group invites Clubs and individuals to submit ideas for new contests or propose changes to the current contests and General Rules for the 2022 SARL Contest Manual. Please consult with the hosting Club before submitting your proposal. The closing date for your submission is Monday 25 October 2021 and it should be sent to contest@sarl.org.za.

5 MHZ PROPAGATION STUDY AWARD

Four logs received for the 5 MHz SARL Worked All ZS Award met the criteria to be considered for the propagation study. The problem with propagation studies is that accurate data is required and not the throw-way 59 signal report. Considering the dates and the distances covered, it is unlikely that 99% of the contacts were 59 and 59 plus. For a more meaningful study one would require much more information such as local and distant station weather conditions, barometric pressure, state of the ionosphere and the sunspot count to mention some.

The primary reason for the logs was the application for the WAZS Award and no conditions of what had to be included other than a realistic RS report from both stations in the contact was stipulated. Evaluating all the data, it was concluded that the log of Andre Botes, ZS2ACP came closest to the requirement for accurate signal reports. Andre's log also contained digital contacts with accurate signal strength reports. From the four logs evaluated he also made the most contacts, 149 QSOs.

The 2021 ARRL handbook donated by the South African Amateur Radio Development Trust has been awarded to Andre Botes, ZS2ACP and will be shipped via Postnet on Monday. Well-done Andre!

You are listening to a news bulletin of the South African Radio League.

THE SARL BEACON FUND BREAKS THE R30 000 MARK

Two donations of R1 000 each took the SARL Beacon Fund to R30 150, reaching halfway to the target of R60 000. The crowd funding initiative to collect funds for the SARL Next Generation Beacon Programme was initiated by AMSAT SA with a R5 000 initial donation. AMSAT SA challenges radio clubs and other organisation to equal or beat the AMSAT SA contribution. Contributions to the fund can be made by credit card or an EFT. Get the full details as well as a list of donors at www.amsatsa.org.za.

CQ HOU KOERS AND JAMBOREE ON THE AIR IN OCTOBER

The weekend of 16 and 17 October 2021 will have many young voices on the air for CQ Hou Koers and Jamboree on the Air. The Voortrekkers will be running CQ Hou Koers on Saturday 16 October, while the Scouts and Guides will be running JOTA on 16 and 17 October. To make these events special for the Voortrekkers, Scouts and Guides, we need radio amateurs to set-up stations at a camp site or meeting place and, under their supervision, allow the young people to speak to other young people.

The Unika Voortrekkers in Randburg need the assistance of a radio amateur at the Unika Primary School in Randburg on 16 October, so please contact Eugene Geldenhuys on mobile 083 572 1121. Contact Andries Visagie, ZS6VL if you want to help with CQ Hou Koers and Richard Hooper, ZS6RKE if you want to help with JOTA.

The AWA Valve QSO Party is a phone only contest on 40 and 80 metres using AM and SSB. Preferably valve radios or radios with valves in them should be used. No linear amplifiers may be used. The AM QSO Party runs from 13:00 to 17:00 UTC (15:00 to 19:00 CAT) on Saturday 2 October and the SSB QSO Party runs from 13:00 to 17:00 UTC (15:00 to 19:00 CAT) on Sunday 3 October. The exchange is your call sign, a realistic RS report, a consecutive serial number starting at 001 and the type of radio used. Your log sheets must be submitted by Friday 8 October 2021 to andyzs6ady@vodamail.co.za.

The second leg of the SARL 80 m QSO Party is on the air from 17:00 to 20:00 UTC (19:00 to 22:00 CAT) on Thursday 7 October. The exchange is your call sign, a realistic RS signal report and your name.

The Spring QRP contest will be run from 12:00 to 13:30 UTC (14:00 to 15:30 CAT) on Saturday 9 October with CW and phone activity using 5 Watts or less. The first 45 minutes is limited to the 40 m band only, the remaining 45 minutes the contestants are free to use any HF (non-WARC) band as they see fit.

Six logs were received for the Early Morning Coffee Sprint held on Wednesday 8 September.

1st Chris Avenant, ZS6CPA - 38 Points
2nd Kobus Boshoff, ZS6BOS - 32 Points
3rd Roy Walsh, ZS3RW - 29 Points

The combined results of the two legs of the Early Morning Coffee Sprint.

1st Chris Avenant, ZS6CPA - 57 Points
2nd Kobus Boshoff, ZS6BOS - 49 Points
3rd Johan van Zijl, ZS4DZ - 35 Points

CLUB NEWS

Four Clubs held their Annual General Meetings on Saturday 18 September, SARL News has received information from three of the Clubs.

At the AGM of the Bloemfontein Amateur Radio Club, the following members were elected to the committee:

Chairman: Herman Janse van Vuuren, ZS4HJ
Vice Chairman: Gert Castleman, ZS6GPC/4
Treasurer: Barend Venter, ZS4BGV
Secretary: Warren Ackerman, ZS6AKW/4

At the AGM of the Johannesburg Amateur Radio Club, the following members were elected to the committee:

Chairman: Kobie van Zyl, ZS6KVZ
Secretary: David le Grange, ZR6DLG
Treasurer: Steven Baynes, ZS6XU
Technical coordinator: Marinus Brand, ZS6BM
HF assessor and RAE coordinator: Graham McNally, ZS6GPM
Facilities coordinator: Ronald Verweerd, ZS6RVC

At the AGM of the Magalies Radio Amateur Club the following members were elected:

Chairman: Hannes Enslin, ZS6JDE
Vice Chairman: Thys Maree, ZS6MJM
Secretary: Pierre Smit, ZS6PS
Treasurer: Pieter Myburgh, ZS6PAM
Media and Web Coordinator: Peter Spickett, ZS6SP
Social Coordinator: Kleingert Horn, ZS6HRN
Assistant Social Coordinator: Corlie Smit, ZS6CHS
Bulletin Coordinator: Richard Peer, ZS6UK
Assistant Bulletin Coordinator: Jasper Malan, ZS6JMA and Kleingert Horn, ZS6HRN
Technical: Leon van der Linde, ZS6AYS
Competition Manager: Helgard Honiball, ZS6HRN

SARL News wishes the new Club Committees all the best for the year ahead.

PROPAGATION REPORT

Hannes Coetzee, ZS6BZP, reports that the solar activity is expected to be at low to moderate levels. There are currently several active sunspot regions visible and some C and M-class flaring activity is possible. If you want to do your own frequency predictions, the expected effective sunspot number for the week will be around 35. The 10 to 30 m bands may provide some good DX

fun during the early mornings and late afternoons. Please visit the website spaceweather.sansa.org.za for further information.

Finally, a diary of some upcoming events:

Today - the CQ WW RTTY contest and the ZS1 Sprint
28 September – The Secunda ARC meeting
1 October – The Provincial Schools close
2 October – The East Rand Flea Market
2 and 3 October – the AWA AM Valve QSO Party and the AWA SSB Valve QSO Party
7 October – the SARL 80 m QSO Party
9 October – the Spring QRP contest
11 October – Provincial Schools reopen
16 October – CQ Hou Koers
16 and 17 October – Jamboree on the Air
25 October – submissions for the 2022 Blue Book

To conclude our bulletin, a recap of our leading news story:

The very first ZS1 Sprint is on the air this afternoon 26 September from 14:00 to 15:00 UTC (16:00 to 17:00 CAT) using CW and phone. Stations in ZS2 to ZS6 must work only stations in ZS1, while ZS1 will work as many ZS2 to ZS6 stations as possible.

This concludes our bulletin for this morning.

We invite clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to radio amateurs and shortwave listeners, in both English and Afrikaans, if possible, by following the News Inbox link on the South African Radio League web page. News items to be included in the bulletin should reach the news team no later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date.

You are welcome to join us every Sunday morning for the weekly radio programme, Amateur Radio Today at 10:00 CAT. The programme can be heard on VHF and UHF repeaters countrywide and on 7 082 kHz lower side-band by courtesy of Louis, ZS5LP. A rebroadcast by Andy, ZS6ADY, can be heard on Monday evenings at 19:30 CAT on 3 620 kHz.

We welcome your signal reports, comments, and suggestions; please send these by e-mail to artoday@sarl.org.za.

You have listened to a news bulletin written by Dennis Green, ZS4BS, proof read by Dave Reece, ZS1DFR and read by

From the News team, best wishes for the week ahead.